

Idaho Water Transaction Tool

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The Climate Shield tool provides a means to use the projected impacts of climate change as an underlying foundation for water resource work in Idaho. While there are many extant threats to Idaho's native fishes, the growing impacts of climate change are the greatest threat to the continuing survival of bull trout and Westslope cutthroat trout in Idaho.

As a result the Idaho water project asked TU's science team to work with the US Forest Service Rocky Mountain Research Station's "Climate Shield" analysis to pinpoint the streams in Idaho with the highest likelihood of providing functional and survivable native fish habitat into the future. Combined with the State of Idaho's water right records this analysis provides the water project a tool with which to help prioritize its water work.

Users of the tool can quickly determine whether there are water right transactions in a stream basin that should be explored to preserve climate "lifeboats" or provide a "climate shield" for these native fish.